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<b>Date:</b>	21.04.2023	<b>Time:</b>	22:20 hrs
<b>Subject:</b>	STEWARDS DECISION No. 4	<b>Document No:</b>	2.5

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**From:** The Stewards  
**To:** The Competitor TOYOTA GAZOO RACING WRT of car No. 17  
Crew SÉBASTIEN OGIER / VINCENT LANDAIS

All Competitors / crew members

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The Stewards, having received video evidence on an incident concerning car No. 17 on SS2, summoned the above crew members as well as a competitor's representative, have considered the following matter and determine the following:

**Facts** The driver and co-driver of car No. 17 did not have their safety harnesses correctly fastened while the car was in motion following a tyre change on SS2 (Stojdraga-Hartje 1).

**Offence** Breach of Art. 53.1 of the 2023 FIA WRC Sporting Regulations, Art. 12.2.1.h of the International Sporting Code and Appendix L Chapter III Art. 3.2 as well as Art. 4 of the International Sporting Code.

**Decision** To impose a **1-minute time penalty** on Competitor TOYOTA GAZOO RACING WRT of car No. 17, to be applied at TC8C.

**Reason** Present at the hearing held on 21 April 2023 at 19:35 hrs were the driver Mr. SÉBASTIEN OGIER, the co-driver Mr. VINCENT LANDAIS and the Sporting Director Mr. Kaj Lindström, of Competitor TOYOTA GAZOO RACING WRT.

The driver of car No. 17 Mr. SÉBASTIEN OGIER explained that after changing a flat tyre on SS2, he had buckled his safety belts and had started to drive initially slowly until the safety belts were properly fastened. He had then asked confirmation from the co-driver Mr. VINCENT LANDAIS if he was ready and if they could start driving. The co-driver had confirmed this. He also explained that after they had started to drive faster the safety belts were fastened, but he admitted that he was trying to position the FHR device until the end of the stage. Mr. SÉBASTIEN OGIER stated that he was unaware that the co-driver had not positioned the FHR device nor that he had incorrectly fastened the safety belts, as the co-driver had confirmed earlier that he was ready to start. The co-driver apologised for this lapse.

The Sporting Director, Mr Kaj Lindström, added that Art. 53.1 of 2023 FIA Sporting Regulations states that the safety belts must be fastened while the car is motion and confirmed that the drivers had the safety belts fastened but not correctly tightened. Mr. Kaj Lindström submitted to the Stewards the data from car No. 17, showing that during the first 13.5 seconds the car was moving slowly.

The video evidence from car No. 17 shows that after the tyre change on SS2, whilst the driver had fastened the safety belts soon after he had started to drive, the co-driver did not have the safety belts properly fastened. At the beginning the car was moving slowly for approximately 13 seconds and the co-driver managed to buckle the safety belts but afterwards, while the driver had started to drive faster, the co-driver was still tightening the safety belts for a certain time and was trying to position the FHR device correctly under the safety belts. The co-driver managed to fasten the safety belts correctly approximately 34 seconds after the car was in motion from the tyre change location and until the end of the stage. Furthermore, the co-driver had tried to position the FHR device correctly under the FHR belts.

The Stewards conclude that it is the competitor's responsibility to ensure that the safety equipment is fastened, tightened and used correctly throughout the stage. Art 53.1 of the 2023 FIA WRC Sporting Regulations clearly states that the safety belts must be fastened whenever a car is in motion and, additionally, Appendix L Chapter III Art. 3.2 and Appendix L Chapter III Art 4 of the International Sporting Code clearly describe the correct use of the FHR device and safety belts, which in this case were not correctly fulfilled. The Stewards find that it is the driver's responsibility to ensure that all the safety measures inside the car are being fulfilled during the special stages and driving with incorrectly fastened safety belts and incorrectly positioned and tightened FHR device is unsafe.

Competitors are reminded that they have the right to appeal certain decisions of the Stewards, in accordance with Article 15 of the 2023 FIA International Sporting Code and Chapter 4 of the FIA Judicial and Disciplinary Rules.



Silver Kütt  
The Stewards



Tanja Geilhausen



Sanjin Paro

**This decision was notified to the Competitor's officially nominated representative as below:**

<i>Name (in block letters):</i>	<b>KAJ LINDSTRÖM</b>	<i>Date:</i>	<b>21.4.2023</b>
<i>Position within the team:</i>	<b>SPORTING DIRECTOR</b>	<i>Time:</i>	<b>22:25</b>

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